Contents: Bisexual Pride & Stonewall, Sexual Vegetarianism, Poetry, Answer Amazons

NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services

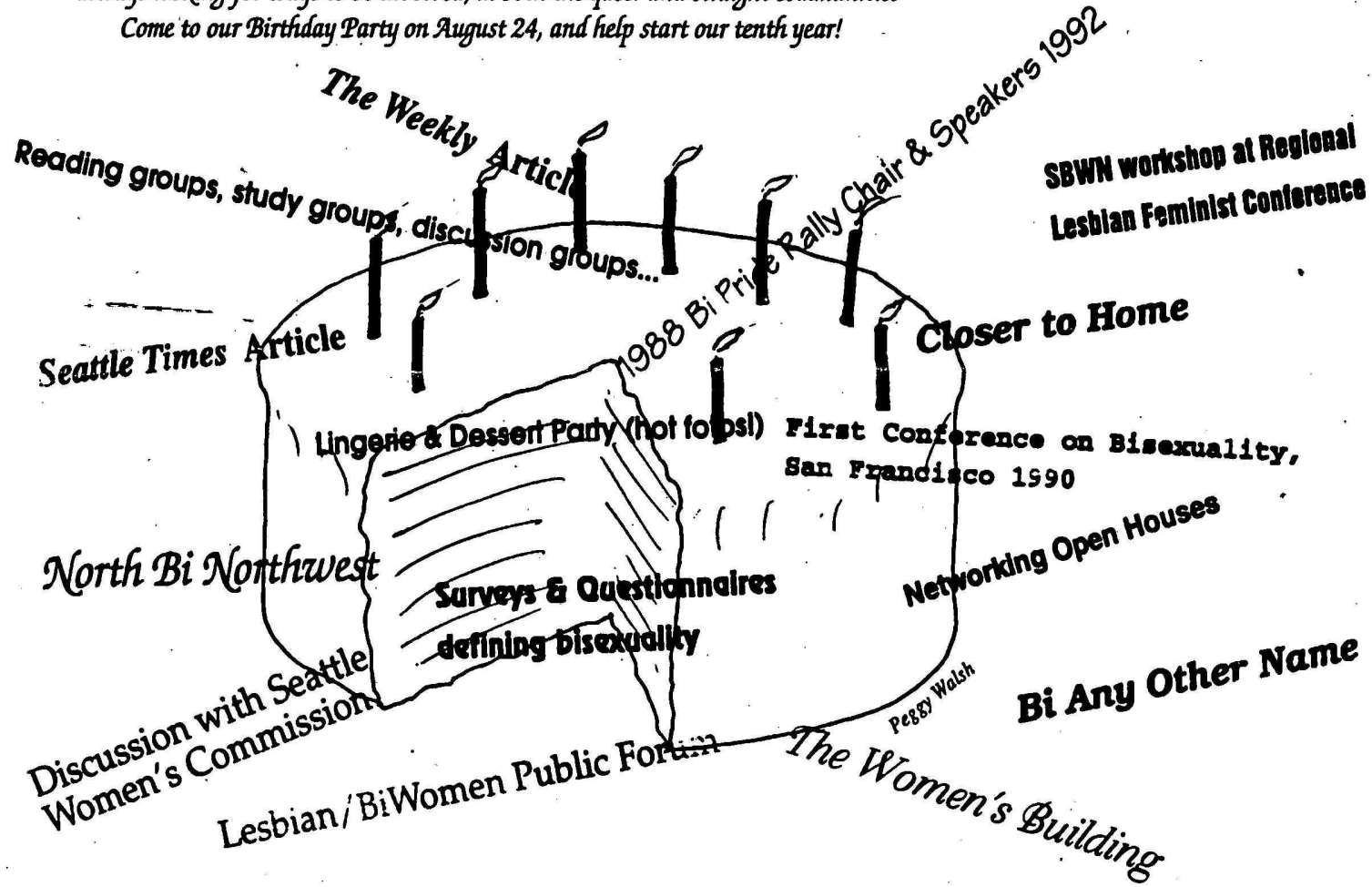
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1994 VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4

Happy Ninth Birthday & Long Live SBWN!!

In June 1985, the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network got started with an ad in the Seattle Gay News, generating 176 calls; with the first meeting on August 24, 1985. An ad in The Weekly in January 1986 brought 286 calls. Shortly thereafter the group bifurcated when a contingent of ardent feminists started an opposite-week discussion group, to balance the support group.

In the past nine years, we've done a lot of activities, and gone through quite a few changes. Currently we've got two main venues, resulting in weekly meetings. We are one of the oldest women's bisexual groups in the world! We've had our ups and downs, but we've survived. Just take a look at a sampling of what we've instigated, participated in and/or organized!! We're always looking for ways to be involved, in both the queer and straight communities

Come to our Birthday Party on August 24, and help start our tenth year!


The Weekly Articl
Reading groups, study groups, discussion groups...
Rally Chair & Speakers 1992
SBWN workshop at Regional Lesbian Feminist Conference
Seattle Times Article
1988 Bi Pride
Closer to Home
Lingerie & Dessert Party (hot fo
First Conference on Bisexuality, San Francisco 1990
North Bi Northwest
Surveys & Questionnaires defining bisexuality
Networking Open Houses
Discussion with Seattle Women's Commission
Peggy Walsh
Bi Any Other Name
Lesbian/BiWomen Public Forum
The Women's Building

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How did you hear about us? _____

All contributions are tax-deductible
Please enclose cash, or checks made payable to SBWN
Send to: SBWN, PO Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle, WA 98103-0645

Join the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network and become a card-carrying bisexual!

This certifies that
Your Name Here
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The Seattle Bisexual Women's Network

Date _____ SBWN Coordinating Committee _____

Memberships are $10-50 a year on a sliding scale, and are open to women everywhere. Members are entitled to discounts on events and purchases. See mail-in form above.

SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of women from diverse backgrounds working to create a feminist bisexual support network and to promote, in both the heterosexual world and in the lesbian/gay community, the understanding and acceptance of bisexuality as one of many valid sexual identities.

We regard ourselves as part of the community that is united against heterosexism and homophobia. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political, or economic coercion. The discriminations we face on the bases of our gender and our sexuality are not the only forms of oppression. We recognize that oppression is non-hierarchical and that none of us is free until all of us are free. We are invested in the feminist struggle to transform our culture into one free of all forms of bigotry, hatred, and exploitation.

We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexual orientation and identity. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. We are exclusively a women's group in order to create a safe space for women's expression and leadership. We come together to affirm ourselves and our choices.

North Bi Northwest *is the bimonthly newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. It is produced by women and is feminist in content. We feature news and events pertinent to the bisexual community, as well as creative writing, artwork, and an advice column.*

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We welcome submissions from women and men that concern feminism, politics, sexuality, or anything of interest to bisexual women. Help define our culture! Share your histories, anger, pleasure, energy. Send us your essays, poetry, photographs, drawings, book reviews, short stories, interviews, media reports, rants, cartoons, erotica, journals, theory, conversations and letters. You're important to us and what you have to say is important to everyone.

We accept input on disk <u>with</u> hard copy (Mac or PC), typed, or handwritten if it's legible. If you send us something to print, you get a free issue; send six and get a year's subscription! Let us know what pseudonym you use, if you do not want to publish under your everyday name.

Views expressed in North Bi Northwest *are those of individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of SBWN. Inclusion in this publication does not indicate author's sexual orientation.*

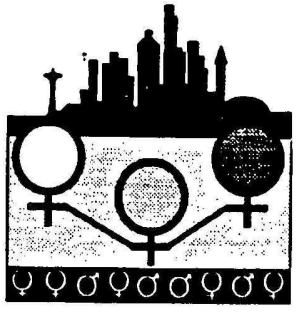
Deadline for submissions to the next issue: Sept. 1. (see address above).

North Bi Northwest is printed on bi paper! (50% recycled).

North Bi Northwest

Editorial Team:
Peggy Walsh,
Lizabeth Coller, Lisa Coyote

Distribution:
Bettykay, Denise O.
and volunteers



Seattle Bisexual
Women's Network
PO Box 30645
Greenwood Station
Seattle WA 98103-0645

SBWN can always use volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Give us a call or talk to a facilitator at a meeting.

North Bi Northwest is available by subscription (see above) or at area bookstores and newsstands, including: in Seattle, **Red and Black Books, Beyond the Closet, Bailey Coy Books, Fremont Place Book Company**, and in Tacoma, **Imprints**.

North Bi Northwest is a publication of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services, PO Box 22228, Seattle, WA 98122-0228. (Not for correspondence with SBWN or North Bi Northwest).

From the Editor...

Oops, sorry we're late this time. There were some technical difficulties, including a shortage of submissions, and those we got significantly missing the deadline, and then our computer was in the hospital for a couple of weeks. We're back in business, and looking for some input for the next issue, primarily on **Coming Out**. There are lots of comings out (sexuality, nonmonogamy, adoption, ACOA, chronic illness...), both discovering self-truths and telling others. Tell us about how it's been for you; or use *North bi Northwest* as your forum and Come Out right here!

Remember, if you come across an interesting book but can't afford to buy it and the library doesn't have it, we'll consider buying it for SBWN's library and loan it to you to read and review. How about *I Am Roe*, by Norma McCorvey, telling us how she got into the Roe vs. Wade litigation and how it affected her life.

This newsletter is a department of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, an all-volunteer organization. Lately we've had a lot of people move on—to other cities, or other phases of their lives—putting a strain on remaining people. It takes volunteers to keep up with phone calls and mail, to keep meetings organized, and the newsletter coming out. Please consider how you can help keep us going. We have various small but essential tasks we need help with.

We apologize for not crediting the artwork in our last issue, so to make amends: page 1 bookcase, A. Powell; page 4 fallen books, Peggy Walsh; page 11 waves, Sandra F., and page 12 running women, Liz Nania.

Be sure, if you write to us, to use our own address (on page 2). Mail for us that goes to the GCSS box on our envelopes comes to us more or less quarterly, and sometimes gets misplaced on the way.

Dear SBWN,
Congratulations on being around for nine years to serve the social and support needs of bisexual women!

I've been around for a little over a year of that, and I have been so glad to have the support of a strong women's group as I have adjusted to a new city, a new body, and a new career.

I look forward to each issue of the *North Bi Northwest*, sigh in relaxation just going into the Sunday night meetings, and love the laughter of the 2nd bi Second gatherings.

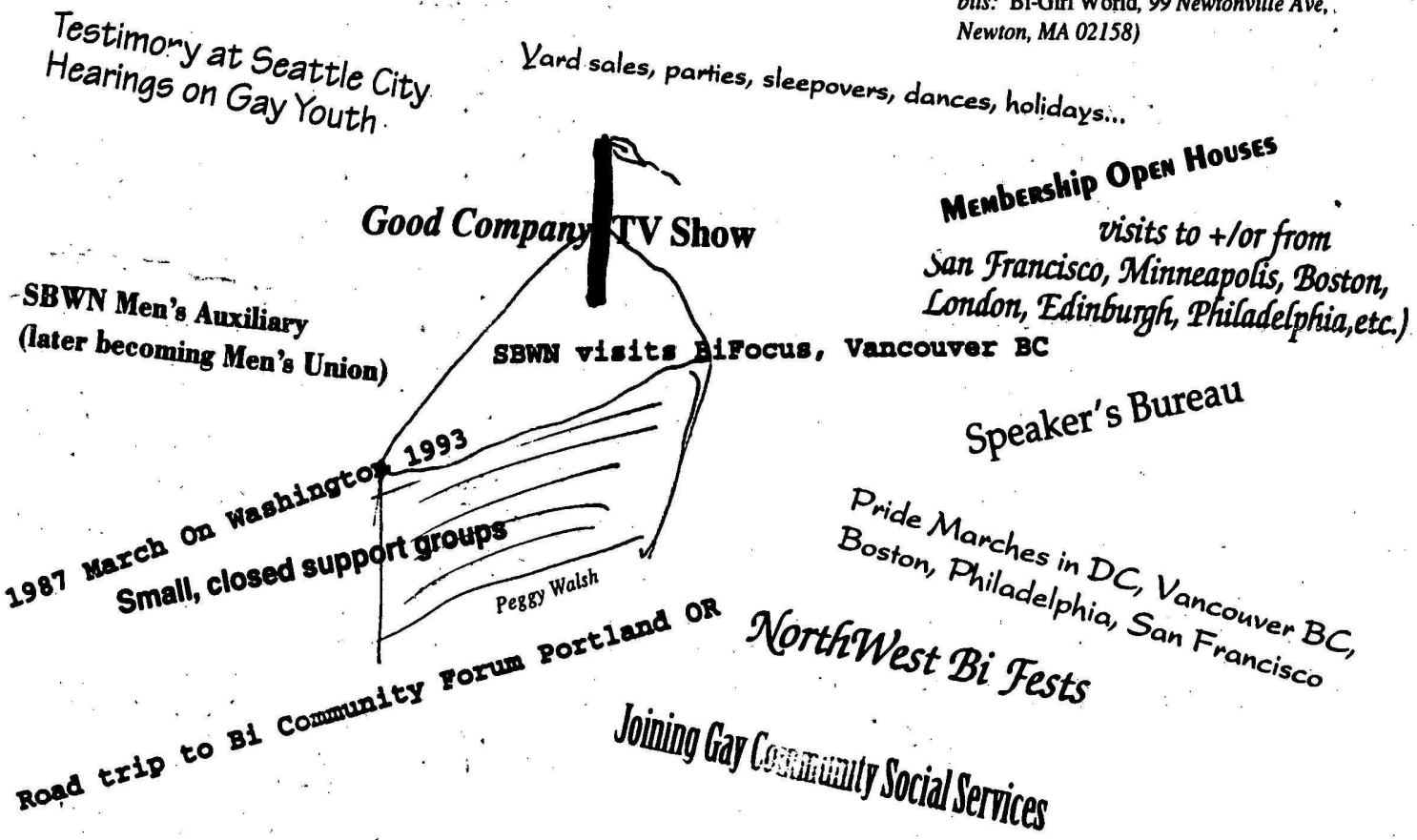
I especially want to thank Peggy, Lizabeth, Bettykay, Theressia, Lynne and Brenda for being such great friends.

Have a wonderful next nine years!

Love,
Denise Ottoson

Dear North Bi gals,
Thanks for the trade!
Yours is my fave bi newsletter. Keep up the great work!

Karen F
(editor of that great newsletter with the sexy bits: Bi-Girl World, *99 Newtonville Ave, Newton, MA 02158)*


Testimony at Seattle City Hearings on Gay Youth
Yard sales, parties, sleepovers, dances, holidays...
Good Company TV Show
Membership Open Houses
visits to +/or from San Francisco, Minneapolis, Boston, London, Edinburgh, Philadelphia,etc.)
SBWN Men's Auxiliary (later becoming Men's Union)
SBWN visits BiFocus, Vancouver BC
Speaker's Bureau
1987 March on Washington 1993
Small, closed support groups
Peggy Walsh
Pride Marches in DC, Vancouver BC, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco
Road trip to Bi Community Forum Portland OR
NorthWest Bi Fests
Joining Gay Community Social Services

We're OUT & PROUD in Vancouver, BC

by Peggy Walsh

Once again Seattle's bi community marched in solidarity with our BiFace cousins in the Vancouver BC, Canada, Pride March, on August 1. We had SBWN's banner, and a bicycle drill team, Bi-Cycle. It's a BEAUTIFUL route, along English Bay. There were about sixty contingents, many with floats and music. We were just ahead of the Whistler Gay Ski Week crowd who were passing out whistles and handfuls of snow from Whistler Mountain, very welcome on this hot sunny day. This parade and rally have grown tremendously since we first encountered them in 1988. At that time, many of the Vancouver bi folk saw us off and met us at the rally in the park, but didn't feel they could march with us, fearing job jeopardy. That march was puny, with a couple dozen groups, a couple hundred people. This year people were OUT and PROUD, demanding civil rights, domestic partnership, respect. They weren't toning down, as in Seattle, in reaction to right-wing political action, so there were a lot more bare butts and bare-breasted women in the crowd. ▼

Drew Robinson

Bi's March in Seattle Pride '94

by Brenda P.

In Seattle, Queer Pride and the 25th anniversary of Stonewall were celebrated with a well-attended Dyke March and Rally on June 25, and the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Pride March and Rally on June 26. The festive mood present at past years' events was this year clouded by the efforts of the religious right to gather signatures for anti-gay rights Initiatives 608/610 (which didn't get enough to file!). Placards, stickers, T-shirts and Hands Off Washington buttons were prominent throughout the crowd. But political concerns didn't overshadow the fun aspects of the day. It was still a great time and a very empowering experience. (And not everyone there was aware of the political aspects; I was stopped by a woman who pointed at the fingerprint on my Hands Off Washington button and asked if the organization was opposed to mandatory fingerprinting of some group of people.)

The local bisexual community was well-represented with members of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, BiNet, and the Seattle Bisexual Men's Union marching with their respective banners and handing out flyers. Special thanks to Ariel and Bettykay for last-minute banner organizing; we were nearly not 'out' there. All three groups staffed a table at the rally after the march in Volunteer Park. Free bi-literature was given out, and buttons and T-shirts were sold. ▼

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sweetnings

by shadrach llewelyn-carstairs

watching the honey drip a sweet amber stream into his morning cereal, the young man rolled into his mind, leaving the warm golden day of here to the lustful blue night of then, when he watched the honey drip and dance with his nocturnal sweat rolling down his hard smooth shoulder trickling down slower down down the firm chest where it caressed his tender pink nipple and slid rippling down the soft bumps to the musty black wall of his hair. the sweet dew came to a soft stop, but its trail burned into his flesh, and burned on with every shimmer of silver moonlight that glinted through the springtime branches above and around. a slick, tingling warmth held his attention now, sending icy flames in and outside of him extending past these bushes past this park, his hard cock enveloping entire cities with its hot enraptured knowledge. this act, this place, this person. and increasingly he could not stop the growth, the sweet magenta expansion and greatly his honey flowed into the universe, covering the blue night, the vanilla moon. the deep trees and gushed lovingly around the stranger's strong lapping tongue and dripped all around and around the morning and into his bowl of cereal.

end.

Participants Sought for Gay Talent Show

by Lizabeth Coller

Gay Community Social Services held their quarterly meeting in July, with all the projects in attendance. Several projects are dropping out; Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Snohomish County is disbanding, and Stonewall Youth is getting their own 501(c)3 status. There are some new groups of particular interest: Dyke TV, and The Lesbian Health Network.

Dyke TV (now selling T-shirts & mugs) brings their NYC public access cable show, a NYC program, to the Seattle area on Channel 29. The schedule for this month is: August 12, 6:30pm and August 20, 10pm. Phone 343-8389 for further schedule.

The Lesbian Health Network provides Western and naturopathic medical services to lesbian and bisexual women on a donation basis. Their clinic is held on the second and fourth Monday of every month, 6-9pm at the Country Doctor, 500 E 19th Ave, Seattle. For more information and to make appointments, phone 461-4503.

Four groups were recipients of grants, including GCSS itself getting $750 from The Pride Foundation, as did the Dyke TV project. The Lesbian Cancer Project received funds from the Women's Funding Alliance and the League of Lesbian & Gay Prisoners from A Territory Resource. GCSS got seed money for putting together a major fund-raiser, which brings us to Ta Daa...**The Talent Show!**

GCSS plans this October event to become their signature fund-raiser, like the Northwest Aids Foundation's Walkathon or Tacky Tourists' The Prom You Never Went To. This is a call for all talented women (and men) to let us know what you can do. This includes, of course, stage presentations like music, singing, performance art, but we also need people who can help with finding a space, organizing the performers, advertising, fund-raising, setup and tear-down, ushering, snack bar, etc. We need all the help we can get.

Please call Jackie at GCSS, 292-5144, or Lizabeth at SBWN, 783-7987, for more information and to volunteer. If you know someone with talent, give us their name. If you want to be involved in a great group, give us your name. ▼

Support Group Forming

by Lisa Coyote

We're looking for women to lay the foundation for a biweekly bisexual support group, beginning around Labor Day. We hope it will enhance the goals of SBWN and not supplant any woman's attendance at SBWN events. This group is aimed at assisting personal integration and for discussion of any major life changes. It's a place to really get to know one another in a safe, supportive environment where the focus is on group members as individuals. No set agenda or limits on subject matter. Group size limited to 6 to 8 people, and attendees will be asked to make a commitment to steady attendance for the first five sessions (for safety issues and to get to know one another). After the first two weeks, the group will be closed to newcomers. We hope to meet in members' homes. No cost except possibly a freewill offering to SBWN. Call the SBWN phone line for more information. ▼

Discussing Surviving Rape

by Lizabeth

I am interested in being involved in a small women's group, with a focus on surviving rape. I'm looking for women who have been raped, but have gotten through it. This could be in terms of time; I was raped 21 years ago. It could be just that the support and process were such that the woman has been able to deal with her rape, and get on with her life. Also, women who were affected by the rape of someone else are welcome.

This is not a how-to-get-through-the-next-day group. I want to discuss the things we did to deal with our situation, who we told then, how we tell now. I'd like to talk about how our rapes affected us then, and now.

The opening meeting would start with a discussion of the book *Still Loved by the Sun: A Rape Survivor's Journal*, by Migael Scherer. I see a minimum of three meetings, a maximum of six, that would last about two hours. We would probably meet weekly or every other week, in the evening or on the weekend. And I don't think we'd get started until the fall.

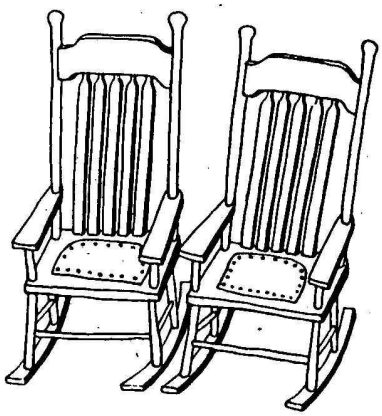
If you are interested, leave a message for Lizabeth at 783-7987. If you don't want to leave a message, call on a live-phone night to talk to one of the participants. You can also write us at SBWN, PO Box 30645, Greenwood Sta, Seattle WA 98103-0645. ▼

Join the Facilitator's Collective!

If you are interested in being of service to the bisexual women's community, in being trained to facilitate groups of people in discussion, and in meeting the 'best' people—explore the possibility of becoming a member of SBWN's Facilitator's Collective. No experience necessary.

Talk to the facilitator at any SBWN meeting, or leave your name and number on the bi-phone, 783-7987.

We need you! And believe it or not, it's fun! ▼



Sexual Vegetarianism?

by Roberta Wedge

This is not a tract on what the political bi should eat or avoid. This is about sex.

Stereotypes tell the tale: take three people to a restaurant and the lesbian will order tofu and the gay man will order brunch and the bi won't be able to decide quite what to order. Mr and Mrs Het Average will order an appetizer, meat and two veg, and dessert. The noisy and fun-loving table of vegetarians, on the other hand, after much discussion will order a jolly feast of pate and pies and peach melba and pumpkin soup which they will then proceed to share with great gusto, helping themselves to dishes in whichever order appeals to each diner.

This is an analogy, in case you hadn't realised. Once we step outside the traditional male-female relationship, we have to think about our roles and what we want, sexually and otherwise. The average act of heterosex, according to surveys, takes eight minutes, start to finish. Eight minutes! I've got nothing against quickies, but as an average? Two minutes to kiss, two minutes to fumble, two minutes to fuck (till he comes) and two minutes for her to remind him that his fingers are still erect. Like I said, heterosexual meat and potatoes.

Two women in bed can't be boring. (What, you think lesbians just hold hands?) Three people in a lovership, whether or not more than two of them ever enter the same room together, have to discuss issues. The versions of the Kama Sutra circulated between teenagers don't teach the rules of modern SM. Even the bedding of a bisexual person with someone of the opposite sex brings new dynamics to a well practiced pattern. If we try not to fall into old habits—learned from our parents or our previous relationships or cultural osmosis such as television—then we have to look elsewhere or create our own.

So what do you like to do in bed? Do you want to talk about it? Safety is the sine qua non of queer sex, and safer sex means first of all talking. 'Assessing risk and negotiating HIV protection,' the AIDS industry calls it. Talking dirty in street parlance. What turns you on? What bores you? What do you enjoy? What scares you? Do you find penetration/enclosure essential as the ultimate symbol of physical intimacy, or is fucking too closely associated with the fear of death or the shadows of Mary Daly and Andrea Dworkin? If you decide you don't want it, toss it out the window, remove the centrepiece Sunday roast from the menu, rearrange everything else. Congratulations, you are now a sexual vegetarian!

The Joy of (Heterosexual) *Sex* (subtitled *A Gourmet Guide to Lovemaking)* is written in the style of America's favourite cook-book. The table of contents lists starters, main courses, sauces and pickles, and problems. Starters apparently include beds, nakedness, The Penis, and virginity; main courses focus on positions for intercourse (his knee over her right elbow, that sort of thing), sauces and pickles describe bondage, dancing, goldfish (but not gerbils), motorcycles, and vibrators; and problems include bisexuality, fidelity and perversion. The various quibbles I may have with any individual topic I can take up later, but the overall arrangement Alex Comfort has chosen doesn't suit my sex life.

What do we call it if we stay in bed all day and drowse and kiss and hug and touch and purr and reach for the toys and enjoy passionate sex and lie in each others' arms and sleep and dream and wake and talk and shower together and wash each other and nibble and laugh and tumble back to bed and rub and massage and tickle and grow aroused again? What part of this forms the beginning or the middle or the end? And which is your turn and which is my turn when all is done with so much affection that the joy of the other translates to one's own physical pleasure? Who would count orgasms now? What do we tell sex researchers when they ask how many times we Did It last week? If you described this at a clinic, would your doctor immediately advise you on contraception? Would you be believed if you said intercourse had not taken place? Why make assumptions?

I remember the first time I was invited to an elaborate feast at a Chinese friend's house. There were several of us who came to dinner that evening and along the table a dozen dishes steamed deliciously. My friend the chef introduced us to each type of food and urged us to serve ourselves, which we did with great success. It expanded my culinary horizons, and ever since then I've never cared much for a daily diet of meat and potatoes. Good thing I turned out to be bisexual: vegetarians have more fun. ▼

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Sexuality and Choice

by Terry Farrah

The most common argument today against oppression of sexual minorities is that one does not choose one's sexual orientation. We are bisexual because, darn, we just can't help it!

I find such an argument repugnant. I beg to differ.

By anyone's definition, I am a bisexual woman. I feel sexual attraction towards all genders; I have had (and continue to have) sexual relationships with people of all genders, and I am comfortable and open about all of this. But this is not something I was simply born with. It results from a combination of many things: Genetics, Culture, Upbringing, Circumstance, and Personal Choice.

Genetics: I was born female, with a female body. Like the vast majority of people in the world, I have always experienced a desire for physical and emotional closeness with other humans, and sometimes this desire has a sexual nature to it. I assume that this desire is inherent in being human (i.e. Genetic).

Culture: I was born into a Culture that considers life-long monogamous child-bearing heterosexual relationships to be the norm. During my growing up, this norm was challenged, but not substantially changed, by the feminist movement, the lessening power of religion in the U.S., and the availability of birth control. As a child and adolescent, I saw myself fitting into this norm. I was most aware of sexual attraction toward males. This may have been partly or entirely Genetic, but it was also what my Culture led me to expect.

Upbringing: I was raised to conform to the norm of life-long monogamous child-bearing heterosexual relationships. At the same time, I was raised to think for myself, and to feel a sense of limitless possibility in my life. Somewhere during my early adolescence I was exposed to the idea that there was nothing wrong or abnormal about homosexual feelings. I accepted this idea—it appealed to my sense of limitless possibility.

Circumstance: I grew up in the U.S., in the San Francisco Bay Area. I went to college. As a result, I was exposed to a huge variety of ideas about sexuality, and I witnessed a great deal of tolerance and open-mindedness.

Personal Choice: When I first started noticing sexual feelings toward females, around age 16, I thought that they were fine, but that I would do best not to act on them. I observed that homosexuals were ostracized. I very much wanted to be accepted. The obvious choice was to keep my homosexual feelings to myself. Heterosexuality was fun and interesting at the time. In fact, it kept me occupied throughout my 20's. During my 20's I occasionally gave thought to sexuality with women, but it appeared to me that this was available only in the context of lesbian community (Culture & Circumstance), which seemed quite closed to me as a woman who was still very much comfortable and interested in sexuality with men.

I'm glad I get to be sexual with women, but it's not essential to my happiness.

In 1989, at age 29, I ended a five-year involvement with a man. During my time with this man I became aware of the variety of possibilities for exploring sexuality with women. I chose to explore in this direction. I had happy, rewarding experiences. I did not experience anything that caused me to feel shame. I was supported by people I cared about. So I continue to choose to explore in this direction. I feel my life to be richer as a result.

If I had been born 40 years earlier, or perhaps even 20 years, my life would be different. I doubt I would be living a bisexual lifestyle. And yes, it is a lifestyle! I know that if it were 1954 instead of 1994, I might be married to a man, I might be dating men, I might have given up on men—but it's unlikely I'd be sexually involved with women—and it's unlikely I'd be deeply unhappy as a result. I'm glad I get to be sexual with women, but it's not essential to my happiness.

Let me compare bisexuality to a topic that is still relatively taboo: pedophilia. Nobody I know calls me a pedophile. But I readily admit here, and to any sympathetic listener, that I often feel sexual feelings towards children. Children are such great cuddly bundles of sensuality! I believe that, as a society, we hardly have an inkling of what healthy sexuality looks like. As a member of this society, I don't have much of an inkling, either. But I have a hunch that it would acknowledge the sexuality of children to a much greater extent, and that it would allow for a range of sexual behavior in children, from solo sexuality, to sexuality among children, to sexuality with adults, to sexuality with animals, trees, sky, and the imagination. What this might look like is scarcely imaginable—I don't mean to imply at all that it will look anything like standard adult sexuality, with its focus on partnering, genitals, and orgasm.

When children are taught about homosexuality in a neutral way, it becomes a possiblity in their minds, a possibility that they are more likely to choose to act on.

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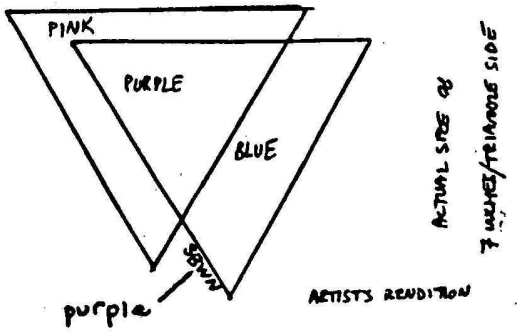

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But do I act out my sexuality with children? No! The risks are too great. I don't need to detail them here. Not only are there personal risks, there are risks to any children involved. The consequences of any sexual activity are greatly dependent on Circumstance, and what might be a perfectly healthy, happy, and productive activity for a child in other Circumstances could very well be extremely harmful under our present Circumstances.

So am I a pedophile, and do I choose to be one? These questions are naive and unproductive. I do have sexual feelings towards children; I choose not to act on them in any way that is not societally approved. I do feel a sense of loss as a result, but not one that I am obsessed with. If anything, the sadness is more connected to my wish that society were different, than to a sense of unfulfilled personal sexuality.

I know that there are some people who do find themselves obsessed with thoughts of being sexual with children—these are the people we commonly call pedophiles. Whether this obsession is a result of Genetics, Culture, or Upbringing is unclear—most likely it is some combination. Obviously these people don't choose to be obsessed with something that is so taboo. Similarly, I know that there are some adults who find themselves obsessed with thoughts of being sexual with those of their own gender. This does not by any means include all of us who practice same-gender sexuality, and it doesn't include me. In fact, if it were very taboo for me to practice sexuality at all, I would refrain from practicing it entirely, and my hunch is that I wouldn't be obsessed with it. That's just me. But I doubt I am alone.

One of the biggest lies of the gay liberation movement is that educating children about homosexuality will not promote homosexuality. When children are taught about homosexuality in a neutral way, it becomes a possibility in their minds, a possibility that they are more likely to choose to act on. Let's face it—the more homosexuality is presented as a neutral, even healthy, option, the more kids are going to look for, and find, and act on, their own homosexual feelings.

We do ourselves a disservice when we try to convince the world to tolerate us because we just can't help being who we are. Besides being largely untrue, it perpetuates the notion that our sexuality is a flaw or handicap. It is too close to the ridiculous argument that some murderers should be forgiven their crimes due to insanity, that because of some personal flaw they just couldn't help themselves. Let us instead try to convince the world that same-gender sexual relations are no more 'unnatural' and 'immoral' than dozens of other things that are tolerated in our society, winning acceptance instead based on our society's fundamental notion of personal freedom, and retaining our sense of personal wholeness and healthiness. ▼

Your Input is Important!

Please fill out the form below, and send to G/L/B/T Study Project, March on Washington, 1202 E. Pike St., Seattle, WA 98122. Your doing so will ensure a broader representation of bisexual people. From it you'll occasionally receive a questionnaire, based on the boxes you indicated on the form.

Your Input Is Important !

We are looking for people who are willing to participate in surveys which will allow our needs to be identified, and develop greater understanding of the issues affecting us. Only then will we have facts and statistics that support what is important to us. If you are willing to be a participant in social research projects, please fill in the following information. Names will be held in confidence by a committee of G/L/B/T scholars and only released to research projects approved by that committee. Sponsored by: March On Washington, 1202 E. Pike St., Seattle, WA 98122

Name _____ Address _____
(Names will be held in confidence)

City _____ State_____ Zip _____

Age: []18-25 []26-35 []36-45 []46-55 []56-65 []66+

Ethnic Identification:
[]African American(01) []Native American(02) []Latino/Hispanic(03)
[]Asian(04) []Arabic(05) []Caucasian(06)
[]Other(07)please specify_____

How do you identify yourself?
[]Gay(01) []Lesbian(02) []Bisexual(03) []Transgender(04)
[]Heterosexual(05) []Exploring(06) []Unknown(07)

I am willing to be contacted about possible involvement in research in the following areas:
[]Any Subject(01) []Adolescence(02) []Aging(03) []Discrimination(04)
[]Health(05) []Life As G/L/B/T(06) []Parenting(07) []People of Color(08)
[]Other(09)please specifiy_____

PLEASE FOLD AND RETURN TO A SURVEY BOX OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE.
Thank you.

Let's face it, we all have our problems. Whether it's a perilous polyfidelity predicament or simply how to shop for latex, North Bi Northwest *is here to help. In keeping with the spirit of bisexuality, we offer more than one reply to each question. Send your queeries to our PO Box; our wisdom-mongers are standing bi.*

Dear Answer Amazons,

Help! My world is closing in on me!

I've recently started seeing Tien. It's not serious, but we're checking each other out.

Meanwhile, my friend Pauline has just moved into the same house as Tien. They didn't know each other, and don't know (yet) that each other knows me.

I've been in the habit of talking about life, and human folly, and how my social life is going, with Pauline. Now I feel it would be indiscreet to talk with Pauline about my relationship dilemmas and adventures with Tien, but I'll miss her insight and companionship.

This all makes me nervous. Does everyone I know know each other? Is Seattle really that small a city? Is there no more privacy?

Sincerely,

Jane V.

Dear Jane,

The whole principle of synchronicity would indicate that these kinds of situations are likely to occur among kindred spirits. There are x number of queer women within the city and they are more likely to know and live with other queer women, and when you figure in the percentage of those who are 'out-to-themselves' bi women, the likelihood grows even more. If Pauline and Tien weren't living together, they may as easily meet in a hot tub at Breitenbush and start talking about who they know in common.

I would hope that you do not give up any relationship because someone else may learn of it. Either there is a certain level of trust here that is part of the relationship, or there is no real relationship. This is a time to celebrate who you are and who you love and who you get support from. Try taking off your emotional girdle and see how good you feel.

Be a goddess.

Love,

Aphrodite

My Dearest Jane V,

Yes, some days it seems that Seattle and our world is getting smaller. What with 'A' dating 'B' who once loved 'C' who once dated 'D.' And then there's 'E' who knows 'A,' 'B,' 'C,' and now loves 'D.' On and on it goes all the way to 'W,' 'X,' 'Y' and 'Z.'

My advice to you, Jane V., is to expand your present world. Do change your routine and participate in different activities. You will learn to do different things and at the same time meet new people. Different people to confide in or to have new experiences with.

For now, though, if Pauline is not a tell-it-all-to-all kind of person, you can still confide in her. I wouldn't advise to be too explicit since you don't want Pauline to look at Tien strangely or lustily. Save the explicit parts for me! Seriously, Pauline's insight will now be of a higher quality because now she'll know Tien, too. If you don't feel comfortable talking about Tien to Pauline, you can still have her companionship; just don't talk too much about Tien.

When you feel the world closing in, just go for a long walk along the beach, listen to the waves, stare into the horizon, and pretend you are all alone. You can also go to a park, lay on the grass, stare at the sky, look at the clouds, and imagine yourself jumping from cloud to cloud without a care in the world. Let your mind soar out of this world by reading a good book, seeing an interesting movie, sweating to a fast game, or making love with a lusty lover, or whatever. The Queen of Love wishes you success in expanding your world.

Regards,

Queen of Love

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Triptych: One Tree

by Jill Seidenstein

1—
Yesterday you
introduced me to
Spalted Maple.
You said,
'Even when the wood
is
rotting,
it is beautiful.'

The Scars. Tell.
There is a History
written/etched/burned/insinuated
in the table-top.

There is a woman
in a table chair bed
Are those
Lines
her tears?

Running my Finger
Tip across
the Face/your face
Am I trying
to brush away the
pain?

This is not star trek.
I cannot heal you.
I Hold you.
Is that
Enough?

2—
You offer me a
Bite of your Apple
sharing it like it is your
Soul.
'Did Eve tempt Adam with a Mac?'
I accept joyously.
You taste delicious

Savoring every morsel
I don't want this
Bite
to End.
You make no Promises. I do
not
ask. Nor demand.

To walk down the street
holding your Hand and the Sun
I am in
bliss.

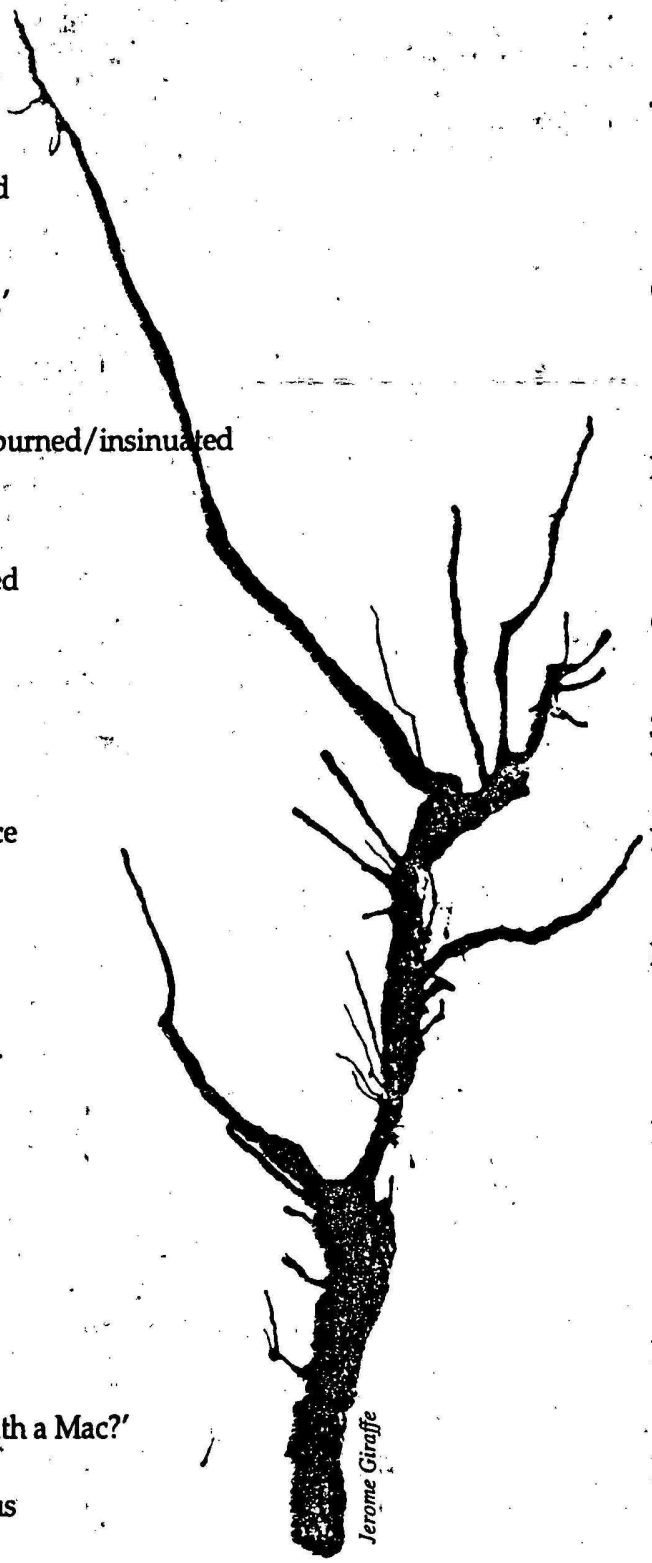
Only to wake up
& Realize I am actually
in
Seattle.

I want you
to call
so I can offer you
a Taste
of my
Soul.

3—
Your hairs litter my
pillow sheets comforter bed.
Last night you dreamt you
you couldn't
find me. Me.
How relieved you must have
Been, to wake Up
& discover me in your
arms.

Did your Tears
Stain? Sting?
My tears fell into
your hair.
Are they on my pillow?

Last night I Dreamed
and you followed me
There. In Pioneer Square.
Did I lose you? I can't
Remember.
Only this:
I woke up in your Arms
& felt safe & whole.



Jerome Giraffe

'FAMILY VALUES': the narrow version

Here's a list of organizations to beware of, besides the Northwest's own Washington Citizen's Alliance, Oregon and Idaho Citizen's Alliances, and Colorado for Family Values. They claim to protect family values, but they hold to a very narrow definition of family.

American Family Association
Actions against homosexuality, pornography, profanity, 'anti-christian bigotry,' liberal media. Works through court actions; targets media/entertainment industry; influential with National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding and public school curricula censorship. 640 local chapters, 600,000 members. Donald Wildmon, PO Box 2440, Tupelo MS 38803.

Chalcedon
Principal center of the Christian Reconstruction Movement, leader in establishing Christian legal organizations, major think tank, publisher, speakers' bureau, seminar presenter. Rousas John Rushdoony.

Citizens for Excellence in Education or National Association of Christian Educators
Goal: to bring public education under Christian control. Priority: disruption of public schools via attacks on curricula, textbooks and school boards. 1250 chapters. Dr. Robert Simonds, PO Box 3200, Costa Mesa CA 92628.

Concerned Women of America
Pressures elected officials via local groups (prayer chains) with anti-gay, anti-abortion, 'pro-family,' agenda; grassroots organizing, Congressional lobbying. 800 US chapters, 600,000 members. Beverly Lahaye, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW *800, Washington DC 20024.

Eagle Forum
A women's organization founded by Phyllis Schlafly (whose son is gay); powerful in National and Republican Party politics; opposed to AIDS education, sex education, daycare, family leave, abortion rights, ERA, NEA funding. 80,000 members. Phyllis Schlafly, PO Box 618, Alton IL 62002.

Family Research Council
Split from Focus on the Family in 1992. Lobbies against G/L/B/T civil rights, reproductive freedom, government-funded health care, child care, equal protection laws for women in the workplace; believes gays in the military will increase AIDS incidence. Gary Bauer, 700 13th St NW *500, Washington DC 20024.

Focus on the Family
Leader in passage of Colorado's Amendment 2 to disallow equal rights for G/L/B/T, conducts seminars nationally to involve fundamentalists in political process. Employs 1000, has 1550 radio stations worldwide. James Dobson, PO Box 35500, Colorado Springs CO 80935.

Free Congress Foundation
A research/education organization. Formed National Empowerment Television (NET) to mobilize Right for grassroots lobbying; hopes to expand to cable TV; has four TV shows, including two to target black conservatives and college campuses; operates Judicial Selection Monitoring Project. Paul Weyrich, 717 Second St NW, Washington DC 20002.

Operation Rescue
Nationally known for violent shut-downs of abortion clinics and vandalizing property, terrorizing women and health-care providers including stalking, harassment, and other intimidation tactics. Trains activists. Added gay rights to agenda when Clinton proposed to lift the military ban on gays. Over 35,000 members. Randall Terry, PO Box 1180, Binghamton NY 13902.

Traditional Values Coalition
Opposes gay rights, reproductive freedom, teaching evolution and sex education except abstinence. Newest group is National Task Force for the Preservation of the Heterosexual Ethic in America. Active in CA, DC and OR to outlaw civil rights protections for G/L/B/T people. Advocates AIDS quarantine. 25,000 churches nationally. Rev. Lou Sheldon, 100 S. Anaheim Blvd, Ste. 320, Anaheim CA 92805.

The above has been compiled by P-FLAG. If you know of other groups to add to this list, send their names and contact information to P-FLAG Celebrates Real Family Values, 1012 14th St NW, Suite 700, Washington DC 20005.

SHEEP SHOTS
©1993 Roberta Gregory
Hi!
Hey, YOU look like you're in a good mood...
Oh...
I've got a RIGHT! They were going to start to teach the kids in school about... HOMOSEXUALITY.. and I led the parents' petition drive to make them.. STOP! They have no BUSINESS exposing children to things like that...
I think I'm.. PERFECTLY CAPABLE of teaching my kids everything they need to know about... ..THOSE PEOPLE...
BAA...

HOMOPHOBIA

by Chris Ferris

Are you homophobic?
I truly hope you're not.
If you say you are
Things could get rather hot.
You see, I want revenge
for the death of my best friend.
He died without reason
He met a most untimely end
His parents couldn't accept him
His friends left him high 'n dry
He could've lived his life in hiding
but he knew he'd rather die.
There are many people,
For revenge, I'd like to kill
People who helped take his life
Those who murdered him at will.
One day he was discovered
Hanging in his cell.
Those who had unknowingly killed him
Are the ones who will burn in hell.
If you are one of those people
It's now time for you to face the end.
You can call it 'death by suicide'
But homophobia murdered my best friend.

PARANOIA

by Chris Ferris

Guilty Conscience
Screaming still.
It wasn't my intent
to kill.
I lie awake
with fear of fate.
Is it my curse
to be too late?

Advertising

North Bi Northwest welcomes advertising from bi-friendly businesses, individuals, organizations and services. Our advertising rates are as follows:

Business card size: $10/issue
Quarter page: $20/issue
Half page: $40/issue
Full page: $80/issue

2 consecutive issues: 15% discount
3 consecutive issues: 30% discount

For more information call (206) 783-7987 & leave a message.

BI'S LOVE NEW YORK!

by Loraine Hutchins

We came to hot steamy New York City from many countries to observe the Stonewall uprising that ignited the gay liberation movement 25 years ago and, as is a part of such commemorations, to look back on what a quarter century of history and activism has harvested and what to expect next.

The extravagant two-week event began with the beautiful athletic spectacle known as the Gay Games, and ended with the ILGA (International Lesbian and Gay Association) conference. In between were the city's own Pride Festival on the wharf in Greenwich Village, and hundreds of parties and related events.

Among the many national and international conferences held there that week - Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Bisexuals, other people of color gatherings, gay cops/parents/architects/leatherfolk, etc...—were the BiNet/USA annual meeting, and the ICCB (International Conference Celebrating Bisexuality).

CELEBRATING BI LOVE NEW YORK

What do you call a hot summer's day, spent roaming the floors of an old NYC high school in the company of 350 other creative, beaming bisexuals? Call it a love offering, otherwise known as the ICCB—the International Conference Celebrating Bisexuality, held June 25th, 1994.

Produced by bi photojournalist Efrain Gonzales (who held the dream alone for months when no one else believed him) and Fordham University Communications professor Gwenyth Jackaway, with help from an ad-hoc committee and a host of other volunteers, the ICCB included magnificent opening and closing plenary speeches, 35 workshops, afternoon performances—both musical and dramatic, additional affinity groups and special interest spaces, childcare, and handicapped access for all. Vendors of bi products and veggie food were arrayed around the school cafeteria. Even midday mini-massages for weary committee workers were built into the budget.

This group of mostly new organizers to the bi community are so enthused they're even talking about planning a first-ever major all-bi rally in NYC next year in a park.

It wasn't really as international as it could have been (considering they did decide to call it that) and much of the organizing didn't coalesce 'til the last two months, but that fact alone makes the exquisitely professionally delivered outcome all the more magical and impressive both.

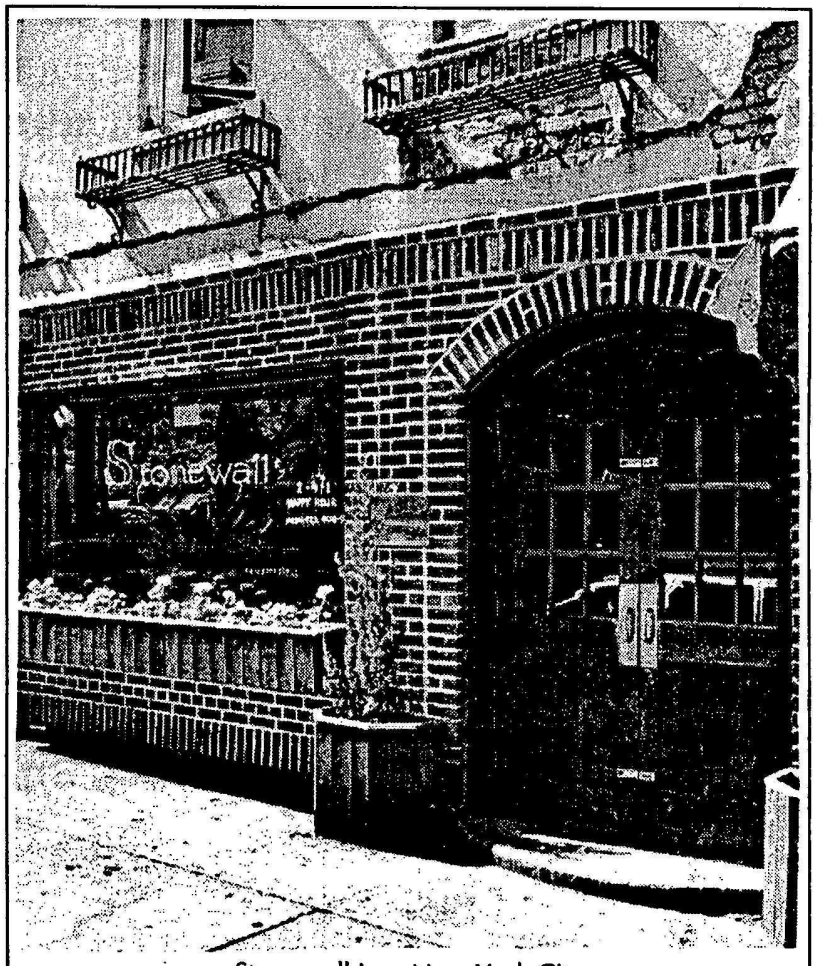
The morning program opened with remarks by San Diego bi writer, organizer and therapist Fritz Klein, a global bi greeting from London's Roberta Wedge, and original bi ballads by NY singer/activist Ben Silver. Midwestern bi activist and writer Elise Matthesen's keynote address ranged as wide as the prairies she comes from; incorporating impressions about being differently-abled, understanding our country's multi-cultural heritage, and what she's gleaned from her own private wrestling match/dance with the universe.

Even if you were there and are more of a restless workshop-hopper than I, you missed most of these tasty selections. There were workshops on bi theory, bi SM gender and orientation issues, the joy and juice of sex, bisexuality and feminism, and paganism, and transgenderism, sex magick, how to organize bi groups, coming out on television, bonding among women of all orientations, domestic violence among us, fighting the Right, and more.

The list of almost 70 workshop presenters and performers included so much talent and leadership, I shiver just re-reading it. Late in the afternoon, after the presentation of Sheela Lambert's 'Lavender Heights' play, there was a steady stream of other amazing artists on and off the auditorium stage, while workshops were still going on upstairs. Entertainment Coordinator Pamela Drake and her crew gave us singers, musicians, songwriters and story-tellers while we slowly wandered in to gather for the closing ceremony.

There were appreciations and announcements all around. A collection was taken for scholarships to the ILGA conference. Elias Farajaje-Jones delivered 'Bodies Matter,' an epic poem about Miss Marcia P. Johnson, one of the original Stonewall drag queens, addressing racism, poverty, hate. He also spoke about triumphing over our fear of our bodies, to remember the holiness and pleasure within.

We ended in thanksgiving and trance. I blissed out.



Stonewall Inn, New York City

STONEWALL 25 - The Experience

I love a queer party! So even when I saw that Stonewall was shaping up into a political situation more spectacle than substance, I decided to tolerate the arrogant, power-tripping attitudes, take what I needed, leave the rest, savour only the best.

Even so, it was a mixed bag. There was clearly more bi-inclusive language in the Stonewall demands, but not in the title. It was a global human rights march, but had 25% LESS mandated people of color regional representation required than LAST year's merely national US march. (hello? which world is this?!)

It was an extravagant multi-venued cultural event; gay capitalism run absolutely and completely amok. (Get those gay Visa cards and high-priced accessories out o' my face, boyfriend!) Even so, there is nothing like the thrill of watching a city gridlocked by queers, of watching cabbies, cops and hotel staff courteously serving outrageously attired drag queens, genderblenders, and bull dykes; of having even a brief moment free in the sun, even if it is 98 degrees, humidity 100%!

On Sunday we marched from the UN, demanding universal human rights for lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender people, tying up mid-town Manhattan for hours with a mile-long rainbow flag, dykes on bikes and over 50 contingents, the bi's well toward the back. For those of us who made it through the miles of gridlock and schmoozing, there was a rally on the Great Lawn at Central Park.

The hypocrisy, as well as the struggle, though, continues. The official Stonewall press statements give lip service to bi inclusion but the facts are quite different. Even though a number of top-notch bi activists worked on Stonewall mobilizing all year, we couldn't get bi representation at the press conferences or on the main stage Sunday.

Boston bi activist Liz Highleyman helped put on a forum on Anarchism and Alternative Sexuality. There was a wonderful Dyke March the night before the big rally and a reenactment of the Stonewall uprising at Sheridan Square. Bi performance artist/porn star Annie Sprinkle appeared all over town. Laura Perez and a band of volunteers kept a bi products and literature booth going all weekend in the Village, at the NYC pride festival down by the wharf. A handful of bi's attended and/or presented workshops at the International Lesbian and Gay Association conference, thus doing some bi consciousness-raising.

Still, it's been exhausting. After more than two intense back-to-back years of national organizing, many of us are burned out on huge events. The Right is attacking us more and more at a local level. We have to concentrate locally, in a coalition-building, supportive way, if we're ever going to gain greater understanding between queers and straights, and among us differently-valenced queers ourselves. We have a lot to be proud of these last several years, too. We've taken care of friends who've died, fought to get a President elected, and for bisexual inclusion in the March last year and this. Even with right wing hate, more and more levels of society are 'getting it' than ever before. But it'll take the rest of our lives, and more. So here's to visioning and pacing ourselves for the next steps!

BINET/USA MEETING

The Fifth Annual BiNet/USA meeting, Friday, June 24, 1994, was intimate, fun and productive—about fifty people, from most every region, participating. To open we passed around the mike, each one telling a recent bi success story, something we'd personally accomplished and were proud of and happy about.

Before lunch and at the end of the afternoon we covered some basics about BiNet's history, budget and current structure and tasks. People lunched with their geographic regions.

The Northwest and Southwest met jointly and focused on ballot issues in their respective areas.

The Midwest/Central discussed major upcoming regional events, i.e. BECAUSE in Minneapolis/St. Paul; In Theory, In Queery, Indeed at U of Iowa. Chicago, with promised help from the Twin Cities, offered to organize the 1995 BiNet/USA meeting in the form of a two-day retreat!

In the afternoon we had the extraordinary experience of doing a mini-media workshop with a special guest trainer—the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's 'spinmeister' Robert Bray. We discussed how to present key messages of bi visibility and respond to Right Wing hate, applying this in practice immediately with group use of a camcorder, VCR and playback monitor.

A big change between this meeting and last year's is that this one focussed much more on training, networking and brainstorming. It produced the following:

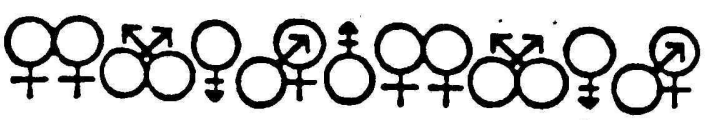
* The Powerwalk—an exercise on multicultural and diversity awareness involving the whole group in a selection process;
* Increasing membership;
* Support for the ICCB, expansion of the Bisexual Resource Center, initiation and sustenance of many local grassroots groups, and bi representation at many professional groups.

BiNet/USA filed its Articles of Incorporation in the state of Florida on February 14 (Bi Visibility Day) this year, and is now completing its application for non-profit status;

It's sometimes very frustrating creating and moving a national membership organization forward. BiNet's elected national coordinators decided to make sure this New York meeting was more positive and upbeat than previous ones.

There's also been a lot of evaluation and questioning on all levels in the year since the first national bi-inclusive March on Washington 1993. What do we want a national organization to do for us and how do we guide it from regional and local levels? The clearest answer seems to be that direction comes best from the bottom up—issues, networking and demands arising locally, then articulated, amplified and mediated by regional forums hammering out common goals and compromise positions. It takes time. We won't accomplish it all in a year or a day.

Excerpted from BiNet News, newsletter of the Bisexual Network of the USA, PO Box 7327, Langley Park, MD 20787 ▼



CALENDAR

For locations, confirmation, or more information, call the appropriate message machine and someone will get back to you (with discretion, if requested). For SBWN events call (206) 783-7987. For all other Seattle events, (BiNet, SBMU, Polyfi, Big Fun, BiOut, etc.) Call (206) 728-4533.
*** denotes multi-gender events.**

Mon Aug 1-Vancouver, BC Pride March, weekend road trip. *

Tue Aug 2-Second Bi 2nd. 6pm. Canoeing @ UofW Waterfront Activities Center. *

Wed Aug 3-SBWN Facilitator's collective mtg. 7pm @ Denise's, Wallfd/Fremont.

Mon Aug 8-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Fast Cars: Slow Women'.

Mon Aug 8-SBMU Mtg. 7pm. 'Comparing Our Relationships with Men vs with Women'.

Tue Aug 9-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Peggy's, Ballard. Devra's book.

Wed Aug 10-BiNet Mtg. 7pm @ Drew's, Capitol Hill *

Sun Aug 14-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Self Defense for Women'.

Thu Aug 18-SBWN Live phone answer 7-10pm.

Mon Aug 22-SBWN Newcomer Mtg. 7:15pm. 'Building a Bisexual Community'.

Wed Aug 24-SBWN's 9th Birthday Party! 7pm @ Coastal Kitchen, Capitol Hill.

Fri Aug 26-SBMU social. 8pm. Safer sex party/NWAF demo.

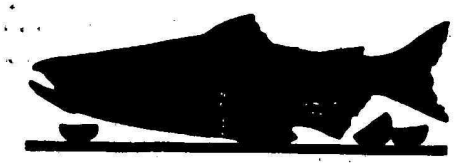
Sun Aug 28-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Top Ten Pickup Lines.'

Tue Sep 2-2nd Bi Second. 6pm. Visibility @ Bumbershoot: meet @ Yukon Jack Patio, S. entrance of Seattle Center House *

Mon Sep 5-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Jazzing Up Your Sex Life.'

Wed Sep 7-SBWN Board Mtg. 7pm @ Peggy's, Ballard.

Thu Sep 8-SBWN Live phone answer 7-10pm.



Sat Sep 10-Polyfidelity Potluck. 6:30pm. Pilgrim Congregational Church. *

Sun Sep 11-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'Making the First Move'.

Mon Sep 12-SBMU Mtg. 7pm. Topic: 'Class Differences & Sexuality.'

Tue Sep 13-Bluestockings. 7pm @ Liz W.'s, Montlake. *A Chorus of Stones*, Susan Griffin.

Wed Sep 14-BiNet Mtg. 7pm @ Peggy's, Ballard. *

Mon Sep 19-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Getting to Know Your Breasts.'

Fri Sep 23-SBMU social. 8pm. Equinox party. *

Sun Sep 25-SBWN Mtg. 6pm. 'How "OUT" are you?'

Tue Sep 27-SBWN Live phone answer 7-10pm.

Sun Oct 2-2nd bi Second. Brunch, 12:30pm. DimSum @ Linyen Restaurant, 7th S & S King St. *

Mon Oct 3-SBWN Newcomer meeting 7:15pm. 'Coming Out in Style.'

Sun Oct 9-SBWN Mtg. 7pm. 'Bisexuality and Marriage.'

Tue Oct 11-National Coming Out Day: Surprise someone!!! *

Wed Oct 12-BiNet Mtg. 7pm @ Chris L.'s, Phinney Ridge. *

Local Groups at Your Service

SBWN (Seattle Bisexual Women's Network) Support and discussion groups on alternate Sundays, 6pm, and Newcomer meetings on alternate Mondays, 7:15pm. For more information, call our message machine. Note our occasional live phone answer times.

Bluestockings: SBWN-affiliated feminist women's reading group meets on first Tuesdays of the month, unless that day falls on the 2nd, in which case check phone msg. They try to alternate between fiction and non-fiction.

SBMU (Seattle Bisexual Men's Union): a men's anti-sexist support and social group with discussion meetings on second Mondays of the month at Pilgrim Congregational Church, room 304 (enter from 10th Av), and social events on fourth Fridays of the month (location varies).

Big Bi Fun Club meets every other Saturday night by the stairs next to Bulldog News in the Broadway Market: 10pm in Summer, 8pm in Winter. All bi-friendly people are welcome to join us as we gather and decide together what activity we are going to go do. It's a great way to meet people and have fun as you promote bi visibility.

Polyfidelity Group: Discussion, stories, literature, philosophizing about multipartner relationships, responsible non-monogamy.

Second bi 2nd: a floating social event held on the second of every month. Its theme is meant to be more family-oriented than Big Bi Fun.

BiNet, the Bisexual Network of Seattle, is a multi-gender, multicultural profeminist group dedicated to providing information about bisexuality, promoting bisexual visibility, and developing community. BiNet has spun off several small social, support and special-interest groups.

BiOut Speakers Bureau is available for engagements at schools, businesses, counseling centers, churches, etc. to provide information and answer questions about bisexuality.